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'74 article plays part in Rewald trial

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Honolulu, Hawaii — A 1974 article in The Milwaukee Sentinel was introduced in evidence Wednesday as proof Ronald Rewald tried to raise investment capital in Hawaii under false pretenses.

The author of the Sept. 9 article, former Sentinel business reporter Roger A. Stafford, is listed as a prosecution witness in the trial of Rewald on 98 counts of fraud, tax evasion and perjury.

Stafford, now vice president of marketing at The Milwaukee Company, is expected to testify later.

Stafford's article also is expected to be used in an attempt to prove one of the perjury counts against Rewald, involving Rewald's claim that the CIA told him in 1978 that it would provide him with fake Marquette University degrees as part of his "cover."

Sunlin Wong, Rewald's Honolulu partner in an admittedly phony investment company, testified Tuesday that Rewald asked him in 1978 to help raise \$150,000 for his Honolulu sporting goods operation.

Wong is now serving a two-year federal prison sentence following his guilty plea to mail and securities fraud charges in the case.

Wong said Rewald gave him a copy of The Sentinel article, saying, "This should help you out in securing the investment."

The 1974 article portrays Rewald as a successful businessman and majority owner of College Athletic Inc., a Milwaukee-based sporting goods firm.

Two years after the article was published, Rewald was convicted of petty theft in Wisconsin in connection with a sporting goods franchise fraud case and he and his company went through bankruptcy.

Rewald is accused of later concealing those facts from people who invested in his Hawaii firm, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong.

Bishop, Baldwin was set up after Rewald had started a small sporting goods operation in Hawaii.

The Sentinel article also includes Rewald's claims that he was a professional football player and that he had a business administration degree from MU.

Rewald says that he worked for the CIA in Wisconsin in the 1960s, infiltrating student organizations on college campuses.

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Wong said he did not know what the National Security Agency was but figured Rewald would be in favor of hiring her because of that background.

Wong was expected to be on the stand throughout today as questioning continues about his involvement in the company.

He is serving a two-year sentence after pleading guilty to mail and securities fraud in connection with the collapse of Bishop Baldwin.

Rewald, who faces 98 counts of fraud, perjury and tax evasion, claims that the CIA set up and ran the offices.